

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 2.

BOSTON, MASS., AUGUST 15, 1898.

NO. 2

Your Subscription Ended

for this paper, possibly with the last issue of A FEW HENS. If so, and you renew, you will get fifty per cent. more matter the coming year, as the paper will contain twelve pages instead of eight. The price will remain the same, 25 cents, as before. Kindly favor us at once with your renewal, sending 25 cents for same, in cash or postage stamps.

TAKE NOTICE. If you send us 40 cents, and one new subscriber, we will send the paper a full year to both for that amount. Send us 60 cents, and two new names, and we will renew your subscription; or send 60 cents, and we will enter your name alone for three years.

Either of the above offers we believe give more real practical value for the money than can be gotten anywhere else.

Send all money and subscriber's address, name, post office and state, (plainly written), in full to

A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Clean up.
Moulting next.
Read the Symposium.
Prices are increasing.
Make pets of the fowls.
Sweep down the cobwebs.
Moulting kills broodiness.
Feed is becoming cheaper.
Did you lose many chicks?
Do not excite the chickens.
Now is a good time to build.
Hot weather breeds laziness.
Dispose of the surplus stock.
Rain and chicks do not agree.
This month winds up summer.
Carelessness is followed by failure.
The American hen is a utility bird.
Our Wyandottes beat our Leghorns.
There is money in poultry and fruit.
Has the year's work been satisfactory?
If the cat is honest she is worth keeping.
A faithful dog is a guardian of the poultry.
From early to late are the poultryman's hours.
It looks as if broilers are again in for a boom.
That Symposium is a galaxy of bright ideas.
Did that last shower catch any of the chicks?
They say bees and poultry make a good combination.
Have you ample winter quarters for the stock you intend keeping over?
We have a thousand new subscribers now for every hundred we had a year ago.

Experimental Farm Notes.

A Brief Report of the Profits and Losses on A FEW HENS Two-Acre Experiment—The Wyandottes Beat the Leghorns—The Ducks Made a Poor Showing.

The first six months record of operations on the Experimental Farm ended with last June—too late for insertion in last issue.

The thirteen common hens we had left over from last year (bought for sitters), gave us this record:

January, 81 eggs; February, 126; March, 136; April, 115; May, 123; June, 67. Total, 648 eggs. These common hens were mated to a White Leghorn cockerel. We set eight of the eggs in January, to fill out a batch, and twelve in February. After that they went with our market eggs.

In January we received from our common eggs \$1.46; February, \$2.30; March, \$2.04; April, \$1.72; May, \$1.84; June, \$1.26. Total, \$10.62.

It is but fair to state that during January we killed three of these common hens for roasting, and as they brought \$1.50, it carried the total of receipts up to \$12.12. During that month, one hen became broody, which we set. During February we set two hens; March, two; April, one; May, two; June, three.

January 1st we had thirty-five Light Brahma females (ten hens and twenty-five pullets). During the month we sold six fowls; February, five; April, one; May, one. We also set one in January; four in March; four in April; six in May.

During January we received 89 eggs; February, 161; March, 303; April, 242; May, 144; June, 189. Total, 1128 eggs.

For these eggs we received: January, \$1.78; February, \$3.92; March, \$9.86; April, \$6.84; May, \$3.38; June, used eggs for broilers. Total, \$25.78.

To this amount must be added fowls sold, as follows: January, \$6.00; February, \$4.50; April, \$1.00; May, \$1.00. Total, \$12.50. Making a grand total of \$32.28 for Brahmas.

In White Wyandottes we had twelve pullets in January, and, during that month they gave us 155 eggs; February, 126; March, 174; April, 151; May, 152; June, 84. Total, 842 eggs.

For these we received: January, \$3.10; February, \$3.16; March, \$13.25; April, \$9.46; May, \$3.63; June, \$1.00. Total, \$33.60.

No fowls of this breed sold. During the six months we set seven Wyandottes.

In Single Comb White Leghorns we had thirty pullets at the beginning of the year, of which five became broody and were set.

In January they laid 225 eggs; February, 351; March, 457; April, 349; May, 412; June, 239. Total, 2033 eggs.

For these eggs we received: January, \$4.50; February, \$7.97; March, \$32.38; April, \$23.97; May, \$11.26; June, (eggs used in incubator). Total, \$80.08.

In all three of these breeds part of the amounts include sales of eggs for hatching. We find that our 90 hens gave us an income in these six months of \$158.08, but we do not include the sales of broilers and young stock generally. That will go in the complete statement at the end of the year.

We spent for feed, during January, \$15.81; February, \$10.77; March, \$11.09; April, \$11.04; May, \$11.53; June, \$6.79. Total, \$67.03. Counting in the male birds of the breeding pens, our stock was composed of 95 head, leaving about 70 cents per head as the cost of keeping these breeders from January 1 to July 1. We have been feeding the very best feed, regardless of price, paying as high as \$1.50 per cwt for wheat. With \$158.08 as receipts, and \$67.03 as expenses for feed, we have a profit of \$91.05 on our 95 fowls, or nearly \$1.00 per head, for the first six months.

To get at the profits of the different breeds, we have made this calculation:

Common hens, receipts.....	\$12.12
feed.....	9.10
Gain.....	\$3.02
Light Brahmas, receipts.....	\$32.28
feed.....	24.50
Gain.....	\$7.78

White Wyandottes, receipts,.....	\$33.60
feed,.....	8.40
Gain,.....	\$25.20
White Leghorns, receipts,.....	\$80.08
feed,.....	21.00
Gain,.....	\$59.08

Getting down to the fowl, then, we find that the 12 Wyandottes gave a profit of \$2.10 per head; the 30 Leghorns, \$1.96 per head; the 13 common, 23 cts. per head; and the 35 Brahmas, 22 cts. per head. The Brahmas will be apt to make a big jump before the end of the year, as the harvest for them will be in the sale of young stock now growing, of which we have a nice lot. The other breeds, too, will have a chance of swelling their profits, as we are preparing for a good fall trade.

Getting back to eggs we find that the common hens averaged nearly 50 eggs each; Brahmas, a fraction over 32 eggs each; Wyandottes, a fraction over 70 eggs each; Leghorns, nearly 68 eggs each.

A study of this record shows that common or mongrel hens are not in competition with such good thoroughbreds as Wyandottes and Leghorns. The Brahmas are more of a meat than an egg fowl, and consequently we cannot expect any great figures from them. We are now referring to them as a breed, and not to *individual* hens or exceptional flocks.

In our charges of feed we have not separated from the amount what was used for growing stock. In this report the hens are charged with everything but the duck feed. They will get credit for that when we sell the stock in the fall.

Our hatches were about on the average. We raised 466 chicks from 946 eggs. The incubators gave us a better average than did the hens. It is our intention to restart these machines about January, and run them as regularly throughout the winter and spring as we can get the eggs. As our breeding stock will be fully twice the amount it is at present, we ought to be able to go a great ways towards establishing that living, if we do not quite—and our faith is strong that we will. We now have a good stock in breeders, and we have better accommodations for them. Building operations will be started again about the first of September.

In ducks we have a poor report to make. We had 55 ducks and 10 drakes in our breeding pens at the beginning of the year. We lost one breeder in January, one in February, one in March, four in May and two in June.

Our egg record shows 72 eggs in January; February, 261; March, 760; April, 847; May, 602; June, 221. Total, 2763 eggs.

The receipts for eggs, both for family use and hatching (not counting those we set ourselves) are as follows:

January, \$1.44; February, \$9.34; March, \$19.01; April, \$17.14; May, \$8.71; June, \$3.47. Total, \$59.11.

Sale of breeding stock: February, \$1.50; May, \$13.75; June, \$5.00. Total, \$20.25. Making a full total of receipts, \$79.36.

Cost of feed: January, \$16.71; February, \$11.94; March, \$8.31; April, \$17.29; May, \$12.00; June, \$10.79. Total, \$77.04, leaving a profit of \$2.32. In justice to the ducks, however, we must say that July and August greatly increases the profits, but that will have to go in the regular annual report.

Our four ducks last year made a much better showing than did this lot, so the fault must lie with the treatment they received, unless the mild winter and changeable spring had something to do with it. Too liberal feeding during the winter, we believe, did it, which forced much earlier and heavier egg production just at a time when we could not profitably handle the eggs.

But we still have great faith in ducks, and next year will make another effort. We still are firm in the belief that they are a necessary adjunct to our two-acre plant.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Shipping to Market—The Fertility of Eggs—Cheapening the Cost of Eggs—Cures for Egg-Eating—Pullet Eggs for Hatching—Pointers.

Eggs are scarce.

Encourage the pullets.

Lookout for hidden nests.

Are the hens going "dry?"

Prices are on the increase.

The March-hatched pullets should be laying.

Don't get your pullets too fat if you want fall eggs.

Keep the crowing cockerels separated from the pullets.

Moulting following broodiness is putting a damper on the egg crop.

All the egg foods in creation cannot make the hen lay when she is in moult.

The nest egg will induce the pullet to lay in the nest instead of on the ground. Don't market the eggs found in the hidden nest, for you cannot guarantee their condition.

Egg shells soaked in kerosene and scattered about, are recommended by the Wisconsin *Farmer* as a remedy for the egg-eating habit.

For a steady supply of eggs during the latter part of summer and fall, broods should be brought out in February, March and April.

Don't become alarmed because the laying hens are slowing up. They need a rest, and will be all the better when they start again.

Strictly fresh eggs, put up in pretty boxes, with a neatly printed label guaranteeing their freshness, will create the best of retail custom.

A. J. Silberstein says by feeding his Brahmas a ration high in protein, and comparatively low in fat, he can induce early moulting and consequently secure eggs in October.

O. W. Mapes believes that the best way to determine whether an egg contains a rooster or a pullet, is to hatch the egg under a hen, and watch the chick for about a year—if it crows it is a rooster; if it lays eggs, it is a pullet.

C. E. Howell, of Elmira, N. Y., says that his surest method of putting a stop to the egg-eating vice is to go to a hotel and get a great basketful of

egg shells and dump them into the poultry yard. He gives the hens their full of egg shells and that is the end of the trouble.

Thomson & Son, Luzerne, Pa., write: "January 1st, we had 11 White Leghorn and 16 White Leghorn and White Plymouth Rock crossbreds, 27 hens in all. From that date to June 1st, they laid 1975 eggs, and during that time four hens set and raised a brood, and one hen we sold on May 15th."

"Eggs have cost me the most when I kept the hens too much on grain rations," says a New York correspondent in an agricultural paper. "I believe I can reduce the cost of eggs nearly one-half by feeding less grain, and in its place giving cut clover, cut meat and bone, and vegetables both cooked and green."

W. H. Rudd & Son, Boston, Mass., think a shipper of eggs should not be over 100 miles from market to obtain the best prices, and should advise any party who wished to get the best returns to locate within 25 miles of market. He could then be advised as to a short market, and could often get stock in, realizing quite an advance above the market 24 hours later.

The Utah Experiment Station found that: "The fertility of eggs averaging five days old was 300 per cent higher than of eggs averaging 22 days old." That "the exercised pens made a better use of the food than those without exercise. It required 22 per cent less food to produce a dozen eggs with exercise than without it. The results are strongly conclusive that exercise aids digestion and assimilation of food. The chief value of exercise, therefore, seems to be in preventing a waste of food."

If after two dozen eggs are laid by a hen the eggs become enfeebled, what is the reason the same laid by a pullet are not in the same fix? If a hen's first eggs are best after a rest, what is the matter with the first eggs that come from the first vigor of youth and maturity of the pullet? Some of our soundest and most vigorous men are sons of young mothers. We take no stock in the saying that pullets' eggs are not as good as hens'. When hen's eggs hatch strong chicks, then pullets' eggs hatch strong chickens, and that is in nature's time—from April to June. Chicks hatched then either from pullets or hens are the best. —J. K. Felch.



It Destroys Vermin on Animals.

Especially recommended to poultry keepers for destroying that pest of the poultry house, Lice. It also prevents the breeding of vermin where freely used. Ten lbs. \$1.00. E. WHITNEY & Co., Natick, Mass.

About Broilers and Roasters.

Hints on Marketing—How to Have Better Table Poultry—Food for Fattening Broilers—Mr. Robinson's Ideas on Model Roasters.

Friars,
Capons,
Broilers,
Barbecues,
Small Roasters,
Large Roasters,
Spring Chickens—

When in the right condition, and marketed at the proper time, meet with ready sales.

Fat hens sell well.

Study your local market.

Caponizing is not popular.

A poor hen is unfit for food.

Do not market moulting fowls.

Indian Game chicks are always fat.

The poulterer helps to feed the world.

Plymouth Rocks are extensively used for grading.

Tender meat is not the rule with chickens having range.

Never mix roosters with pullets or hens in same shipment.

Late-hatched chickens bring high prices for fries in January.

A poulterer, practically, is a man who raises poultry for market.

Remember quick fattening is the secret for success in table poultry.

The White Wyandottes, for broilers, excel any cross that can be made.

It is said that at present there is very little poultry in cold storage.

Just what a roaster should look like is told by experts on our Symposium pages.

With a standard for broilers and roasters, A FEW HENS believes it is possible to have better table poultry.

Table poultry are terribly neglected in England, says an English writer. No wonder; there are nearly all fanciers there.

A Langshan cock crossed on Plymouth Rock hens, makes a king-pin cross for roasting fowls. I have had them weigh three and a half pounds at 11 weeks of age.—*J. S. Kennedy.*

A fat chicken is always desirable, and a full plump body and limbs will go a long way toward finding a customer. Most of the chickens sent to market are lean and lanky. It is said that it is hard work to fatten a young chicken, says a writer in an exchange.

A large proportion of the fowls marketed are actually unfit for table use, says Texas *Farm and Ranch*. All fowls raised on free range in towns or on their outskirts, are not fit for human food. The unutterable filth they eat when they can get to it, is enough to un stomach a hyena. All fowls not confined to clean yards should be cooped and fed clean food for a week before killing.

With poultry it is like every other product that is for sale, says Iowa *Homestead*. Sell when there are buyers, and sell when they are ready to go, no matter what the season of the year or the price. It is better to take 20 cents for a 30-cent hen, than to feed her 20 cents worth of food and then sell her

for 35 cents later on in the season, when it is fashionable to sell poultry. G. R. Thompson, Indiana, asks: "What is the best food for fattening broilers for market, and how long must they be fed?" Increase the quantity of cornmeal and meat scraps in the mash and add a spoonful of charcoal to each quart of mash, daily. Feed cracked corn at night. Also give green food during the day. Feed all that the fowls will eat up clean. Keep them confined in a somewhat dark but cool pen during summer fattening. Have fresh drinking water and grit constantly before them. A week or ten days of such treatment should make a plump broiler.

John H. Robinson, associate editor of *Farm-Poultry*, in a personal letter to the editor of A FEW HENS, refers to the proper standard for a roasting fowl (see Symposium pages) as follows: "The breast is really the principal thing in a market fowl, but to get good breast we must have good body first. With such a body and back as I have described, very few fowls will fail in breast. So far as actual quality goes, I do not consider the color of the skin of any importance. The market demanding a yellow skin makes it of utmost importance. People who are in the business can neither afford to quarrel with the demand, nor to try to reform it."

Ducks and Ducklings.

The Duck Must Cover its Head in Water—Ducks are Practically Disease Proof—Trouble With Young Ducks—Good Records—How Mr. Christman Feeds.

Who ever heard of a lousy duck?

It is time for the ducks to moult.

The egg record is gradually closing.

The Aylesburys are excellent layers.

How many broody ducks did you have?

Clean troughs are absolutely necessary.

China is a great duck raising country. Poor soil is readily made rich by a flock of ducks.

Rankin says it pays better to raise ducks than onions.

Salted smoked ducks command great sales in China.

After laying season feed more bran and less cornmeal.

As the season draws to a close, hatching becomes poorer.

Valuable duck information will be found in the Symposium.

As soon as the duck run is empty, it should be sown to rye or oats.

Leading authorities do not believe the green egg is a sign of impurity.

Ducks can make a great deal of mud with a very small amount of water.

Chick-sized grit should be mixed in the mash once a day for the breeding ducks.

Green food, if anything, is more important now than it was during laying season.

Ducks are chicken-cholera proof, roup proof, gape proof and hawk proof, but they die with their favorite diseases, spinal meningitis and paralysis. Nevertheless, ducks are dandies to raise for home use or for market.

In A FEW HENS for June, F. Christman wants to know whose ducks can beat his laying. I say mine did. I have three that layed 366 eggs in the same time that his four layed 370. Since May 17 to July 1 (44 days) mine layed 107 eggs, and two of the ducks are still laying.—*Wallace Parker*, Gainesville, Texas.

Since you published my record, the ducks have added 118 eggs to the number given in June A FEW HENS, making a grand total of 488, and they still keep the good work up. They seem to be chuck full of eggs yet, though they are getting smaller in size. Only 52 eggs more needed and they will have beaten the general average.—*F. Christman*, Sellersville, Pa.

A duck must have water about its eyes daily, or it will not thrive, says H. B. Geer. But if a tank of sufficient depth is provided for the ducks to sink their heads in the water clear out of sight, then they can do without the pond or stream. When this is not done they gum up about the eyes, become listless, sit about, don't eat, and soon die. Young ducks that do not have water as above suggested, drop off one by one.

I am 13 years old. My little seven year old brother and myself are joint partners in one male and two female Pekin ducks. One began laying March 7, and layed again on the 8th. On the 9th the other began, and they both layed an egg every day until May 21, when we got but one egg. May 22 they layed two eggs again, and continued so doing until May 30, when one duck became broody. This made 165 eggs in 84 days. The other duck has layed every day up to the present date (June 29).—*Earl Haskins*, South Cortland, N. Y.

J. H. Reed, Saratoga county, N. Y., writes: "I have been trying for the past two years to raise Pekin ducks, but have had poor success in both hatching and rearing them. I sprinkled the eggs once or twice at night, during the second and third week, in order to moisten them so that the shells would not be so dry and tough. When the ducklings were hatched I took them away from the hen, and placed them in a good, light coop on the lawn, with a pen the length of a board and nearly as wide. I fed them one part cornmeal and two parts wheat middlings, moistened with sweet skim milk, four or five times a day, while young. I gave them warm water to drink at first. They had coarse sand or sifted coal ashes in a little box for grit, sun or shade as they chose, and lettuce or grass for greens. Please tell how you feed your young ducks." We feed equal parts of bran, cornmeal, middlings and rolled oats, moistened with hot water and fed warm. After first week we add coarse sand to their mash and also add a little of meat scraps. We do not believe in sprinkling the eggs while hatching.

For the benefit of A FEW HENS readers, (and C. P. Reynolds, of Michigan, in particular), I will give the general method of feeding and management of my ducks, for no cast iron rules can be laid down and followed with ad-

vantage. Mr. James Rankin says in his "Duck Culture" to feed a mash in the morning composed of equal parts of cornmeal and wheat bran, with about 12 to 15 percent of animal food. "One-fourth of this feed is composed of vegetables, cooked—say, small potatoes, turnips, etc., with all the green rye and refuse cabbage they will eat. We feed this compound morning and evening, with a little corn, wheat and oats at noon. Feed all they will eat up and no more." All the "cooked vegetables" I feed is steamed, and green clover, which constitutes one-fourth of the mash above given, and all the "animal food" my ducks get is skimmed milk with which the mash is made. As to housing, they have their choice of either going in the house or staying out. I never drive them in, not even in the coldest part of winter. The house is an old store counter, 3x4x9 feet, and has a board floor well littered with straw. I put a slant roof on it, and then covered the whole thing with good composition paper, and shingles on top of it. This makes it dry and warm. I water the ducks three times a day, always before meals, with enough water in the troughs to last at least until the next meal. The pen is 25x35 feet. This is not the whole secret of that grand record by any means. The first essential is to get first-class stock and then feed it with eggs in view. No haphazard stock and haphazard feeding will accomplish this.—*F. Christman*, Bucks County, Pa.

Turkey Culture.

Feeding the Poults—A Theory in Brooding—Pointers on General Feeding and Care.

Liberty for turkeys.
Keep the poults tame.
Sunshine is the turkeys tonic.
Turkeys are fond of Kaffir corn.
Love for the work is imperative.
Never give soft food on the ground.
The breeding stock must be vigorous.
You cannot raise turkeys on a town lot.
Mindful of details is strictly necessary.
Turkeys will eat grit as greedily as corn.
A mild mother will have mild young.
"If you don't at first succeed, try, try again."
Patience should be the rule in raising turkeys.
Some claim the Black turkey is the hardiest.
Turkeys cannot be successfully brooded artificially.
The bulk of the turkey crop is brought out by hens.
It is hard to change a young turkey's habit of eating.
In the pinelands of Virginia large flocks of turkeys abound.
Virginia is aiming to be the banner-state for the turkey crop.
A little sand should be mixed daily with soft feed for the young.
Cleanliness prevents much of the mortality among the young.
The Baltimore *Sun* says the turkey was domesticated by the Indians.
Charcoal is a valuable article in the

diet of turkeys, both old and young. A Kansas lady feeds her turkey chicks every two hours for the first 10 days. Geo Enty says that on any ground upon which people can live turkeys will thrive.

If the poults can be kept healthy for the first six weeks, the battle is half fought.

Infertility in turkey eggs is mainly due to an overfat condition of the breeding stock.

Fermentation in the crop, common in turkeys, is prevented in the feeding of charcoal.

If you begin feeding the turkeys off a board, it will be difficult to get them to eat off the ground, and *vice-versa*.

It is said that in Scotland when the young turkeys droop they are given a drop of whisky; in France they get a teaspoonful of wine.

Mrs. Stella G. Northington, in *Fancy Fowls*, advises granulated oatmeal, cracked corn and whole wheat as a good evening ration for young turkeys.

Mrs. Mackey, in *Reliable Poultry Journal*, says turkeys have no respect for ownership of land. They are communists and believe in common rights, considering themselves "monarchs of all they survey."

The largest flocks and the most thrifty looking turkeys, are found on farms having high, dry land, which has a light growth of grass, and where a new breeding gobbler has lately been introduced.

"Whatever you feed, don't feed wheat bread; you might as well feed them putty, in my opinion. Though only a farmer's wife, I have had good success raising turkeys on a small scale for twenty years," says Mrs. Lottie E. Waring, in *Coleman's Rural World*.

Mrs. F. A. Hargrave, in *Reliable Poultry Journal*, gives this method for feeding poults: Stale lightbread, softened in sweet milk (or water if one has not sweet milk), squeezed dry, mixed with hard boiled eggs, including the shells finely broken. Alternate this with bread and clapper cheese, oat-flake and egg or cheese for another change, seasoned with a little pepper and salt. This cheese should not be too soft, as bowel trouble will likely follow; nor too hard, as it is then too difficult to digest.

A Montana correspondent in the *Reliable Poultry Journal*, writes: "The reason young turkeys with chicken hens die, I believe to be this: If you disturb a turkey hen brooding her young, and she gets up, she will not brood them again in the same place, though she may go only a yard or so away. Now, a chicken hen will settle again in exactly the same place. It has been said the reason a turkey does not brood them in the same place, is that the young generate a poison, or rather, poison the ground, and that instinct prevents the turkey hen from covering them again on the same place, though they often return at night to the same resting place with their young. I know nothing about the truth of this, but I have noticed that they do not brood twice in the same place."

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Spiltz, a New Poultry Grain—Kaffir Corn—Green Bone—Shredded Wheat—English Ideas on Feeding—Prickley Comfrey—Value of Bran.

Tell us how you feed.

Feed only the purest and best.

Feed hoppers are not practical.

The second crop clover is best.

Two meals enough during summer.

In the morning water after feeding.

Grass should be part of the daily diet.

Give very little corn during moulting.

Cornmeal for fattening is the American idea.

Mash exposed to the sun will quickly sour.

What do you know of spiltz for poultry feed?

Clean out the troughs an hour after feeding.

Fresh water twice a day during hot weather.

The French prefer buckwheat meal for fattening.

For chicks, clover meal is better than clover hay.

It is best to always have the fowls about half hungry.

Four meals a day should be given during fattening.

During moulting, the food should be of nitrogenous nature.

English poulterers rely chiefly on ground oats for fattening.

Heavy feeding during winter and spring shows its fatal results in summer.

It is said that feeding buttermilk to fowls has a tendency of whitening the skin.

Deprive the yarded chickens of greens, and they will destroy the trees in the runs.

Spiltz for centuries has been grown in a limited way in Eastern Russia, near the Caspian Sea.

Inland Poultry says the strongest hatching eggs come from stock that have been supplied with green bone.

Dry grass in the hen yards will be picked up by the hens when greens are scarce, resulting in crop bound.

The Iowa Seed Company, Des Moines, Iowa, so far as we know, is the only firm advertising spiltz seed for sowing. Botanically, spiltz is known as *Triticum spelta*, and is supposed to be the grain grown in Egypt in the time of Moses.

I find an excellent food for fattening fowls for market is equal parts of barley-meal and cornmeal, cooked, and fed warm.—*John Hess*.

Green food is not absolutely necessary where wheat bran can be had. Wheat bran is what ducks grow on. Onions and garlic are the best things for poultry, and where these are fed there will never be a case of gapes.—*M. Davenport*.

H. M. Gilbert, Texas, asks what grains are best for feeding in his climate. We should give wheat principally, alternated with oats, Kaffir corn and barley. Part of the runs should be bedded, and the grain scattered among the litter.

Dr. H. B. Greene, England, says it is worthy of note that mangold, wurtzel, fish scraps and sulphur, if in-

cluded in the diet of the laying fowl, are all liable to discolor the yolk or taint the flavor of the egg.

"I am no friend of cornmeal or bran for chicks. The little fellows cannot eat it and survive satisfactorily," says a writer in an exchange. Yes, they can. When once we cannot secure bran or cornmeal for our chicks, we are going to stop raising them.

I do not think that any plant will furnish as much green food for poultry as prickley comfrey. Thirty-one plants will furnish green food for 100 hens for six or seven months. The second year it can be cut every month, and one plant a day is enough for 100 hens.—*I. G. Quirin.*

S. N. Follanshee, proprietor of Bonicbrae Poultry Yards, Leominster, Mass. sends A FEW HENS a sample of shreaded wheat refuse, gotten at the factory where shreaded wheat biscuits are made. It can be bought at \$20 a ton, and he asks if it would do to feed chicks. It is an excellent article for in the mashers of both old and young stock.

Kaffir corn is extremely hardy, will thrive and mature a crop where any other corn will grow, and on good soil and with proper cultivation the yield is enormous. No other grain is as valuable and nutritious as food for poultry. It possesses properties which not only keep the fowls in healthy condition, but which make the hens lay. It is invaluable for young chicks, pigeons, etc.—*S. Wilson.*

A correspondent from Menno, South Dakota, thinks spiltz would make a good substitute for wheat. He writes: "The German Russians are raising considerable and increasing their acreage from year to year. They say by grinding it makes as good stock feed as oats; and for chickens, without grinding, it is equally as good as wheat and is a good egg food. My attention was called to it last spring by a party who raised a great many chickens, and he would not think of feeding anything else but this spiltz."

Geese for Profit.

More Praise for the Toulouse—Smoked Goose Breasts—Hens Apt to Kill Young Goslings—Telling the Sexes—How the Geese Destroy Pastures—Goslings With a Broken Wing.

Geese seek mates in February.

The gander is a gallant protector.

It is hard to glut the goose market.

Geese, like turkeys, cannot be yarded.

It takes 30 days to hatch the goose egg.

A flock of goslings make a pretty sight.

Geese seldom become broody the first year.

A goose should average 20 goslings in a year.

It is a mistake to feed the breeders much grain.

In his defense, the gander is fearless and vicious.

Geese are easier to raise than other poultry.

Ten geese will consume as much grass as a cow.

A goose covers her eggs with the nest material.

Geese are profitable layers up until 12 years of age.

There is a business look about a thoroughbred goose.

It is not an easy matter to spoil the goose's appetite.

Geese cannot be profitably hatched and reared artificially.

Vegetables and cut clover hay should be in the bill of fare.

Goose livers in Europe command as high as \$4 per dozen.

Feeding too much corn in winter unfits the birds for breeding.

Too much grain induces too early laying, causing infertility of eggs.

The gander don't have a curled feather in the tail, as does the drake.

Newman thinks there is money in raising goose livers for the New York markets.

The first green goose in the New York and Boston markets bring from 18 to 25 cents a pound.

Some breeders claim that the black points on the bills of the geese is an indication that they are laying.

Hanover Ganze Biuste (Hanover smoked geese breasts) sell in Europe in the finest delicatessen stores at 80 cents to \$1 a pound.

Farm and Home says those intending shipping should send to dealers in poultry for modes of preparing for market, since modes differ in different sections.

There is imported from Germany smoked goose breast, a very expensive and much appreciated article of food among our Hebrew friends, says *Poultry Topics*. It is considered quite a luxury, and sells for 25 to 30 cents a pound.

Writing in the *Country Gentleman*, Prof. Samuel Cushman says: It is useless to attempt to raise geese successfully if they are afraid of the attendant. They should be treated with kindness and have full confidence in their keeper. A nervous, quick tempered, excitable, rough person may keep them so disturbed that they cannot thrive.

Chas. F. Newman, in *Reliable Poultry Journal*, says the Toulouse goose is the most profitable goose to raise. It grows the largest, matures the quickest, is not so much a rambler and flyer as other kinds, and as it does not take so readily to water as other varieties, it grows more rapidly, and accumulates fat faster. Neither are they so noisy.

When six or seven months old, or at maturity, says Mr. Newman, you can usually, by observation, tell the ganders from the geese. The male, in most cases, grows some larger than the female. The goose is deeper in the body, a trifle slimmer in neck, and smaller in head. The call of the gander is loud, long and shrill, while that of the goose is merely an answer to it.

Mr. Newman says it is a wrong belief that geese or their droppings will kill grass or destroy a pasture. If you have a large flock of geese and a small pasture, they will clean it up. That is, they will eat the grass as fast as it sprouts, and give it no chance to grow, just as a cow on a city lot will soon

have only bare ground, and you have to tie her out in the road. If you could do the same with geese, you would find the grass coming again and growing as before.

In setting a chicken-hen with goose eggs, Mr. Newman says the hen will set all right, but when the young ones break the shell, and the hen sees a green little creature with a long, wide bill saluting her, she takes it for a freak of nature and off comes its head! Not many hens will claim the young geese, so take the goslings away as they hatch and try the hens, giving them to a good slow, gentle mother. As soon as she takes them without any fuss there is no further danger.

It will sometimes happen that you will hatch and raise a gosling with a broken wing. It is no serious fault at all, only a misformation in the egg. Mr. Newman says if it is a nice, large, promising bird do not kill it, nor be apprehensive that it will breed broken winged birds, for it will not. If the looks of it be unpleasant to you, take a sharp knife and sever the crooked part at the joint. Bandage it and it will soon heal, and you will never note the difference afterwards. You will generally find such to be the largest birds.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Hints on Prevention—The Moulting Hen—Roup Remedies—Filthy Drinking Water—Diarrhoea—Rattling in the Throat—Scaly Legs—Swelled Eyes—Cholera—Broken Toe Nail—Poisonous Fungus Growth in the Blood.

Always isolate the sick.

Ailments are not diseases.

Lice will often cause diarrhoea.

Contagious diseases are incurable.

Roup is the second stage of distemper.

Scummy drinking fountains cause sickness.

Who ever saw a genuine case of fowl cholera?

Grit will prevent much trouble in the hen yard.

Put a piece of rusty iron in each drinking vessel.

Treat the scaly legs before the fowls go into moult.

Indigestion is the root of much evil in the hen yard.

We can apparently cure contagion, but the effects will ever remain.

Poor houses, dampness, filth and improper feeding bring on disease.

Close, crowded houses in summer, are dangerous to the health of the fowls.

Fat is debilitating to fowls, and impairs the action of every organ in the body.

Investigate every case of disease in your fowls, and ascertain its cause, and then remove that cause.

Fowls will often devour their droppings and if these be of a choleric nature, disease will surely follow.

For broken toe nail, the *Michigan Poultry Breeder* advises putting a few drops of tincture of iron on the wound.

Spoiled food is very irritating and readily sets up an inflammatory condition of the bowels as it passes through them.

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, monthly Three Cents.

By the year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,

PUBLISHERS.

ADVERTISING RATE:

One half cent per agate line for each 1000 copies, as printed monthly. Therefore the rate may vary each issue, as the circulation is increased. This will make the price 5 cents per line for 10,000; and 10 cents a line for 20,000, etc.

About seven ordinary words make one line. There is fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

Entered at the Post-Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, by I. S. Johnson & Co., Publishers, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

When A FEW HENS started as an 8-page paper, we used brevier type for the reading matter. That was in July, when advertising was more or less dull. During fall, winter and spring the demand for advertising space was such that we deemed it best to use a smaller type so as not to cut down on the quantity of matter, and at the same time accommodate our advertisers. Hence, nonpareil type was called into service. To this small type, however, we found some objection, and we concluded that when we enlarged we would go back to the brevier, which we do with this issue. It should have commenced with our last issue, but we could not complete the arrangements in time. We believe that A FEW HENS will be more readable in this style, and be more satisfactory all around.

Editor Drevenstedt, in his *American Fancier*, thinks he has stirred us up, as we gave him "Hail, Columbia," in a 'rapid firing' style." After quoting what we said in our last number about selling cold storage eggs in a fresh-egg market, he says:

"When we refer to storage eggs, we mean fresh eggs put away in cold storage, not the promiscuous lot of stale and other blended hen fruit our Hammonton friend has in mind. A man who stores away the latter kind of eggs is minus brains and judgment. A farmer who preserves fresh eggs is not dishonest; he is simply using good business judgment. We have eaten cold storage eggs and found them excellent. They had the advantage of running at least even in quality, something we could not always say for the 'honest' farmer's eggs."

But we still are not convinced. "Fresh eggs put away in cold storage" become stale eggs when eaten. Age stales them. They may taste all right—and we don't doubt that those eaten by Mr. Drevenstedt were excellent—but they are not reliable goods. They are a counterfeit.

When an egg is over a week old it is no more fresh. Our customers are furnished every three days. We agree with Mr. Drevenstedt that the "honest" farmer's eggs are not always like Caesar's wife, "above suspicion." We have referred to that before, and in our battle in behalf of the fresh egg market, have called attention to many short comings in the egg crop from farmers. Further Mr. Drevenstedt says:

"Yes, we were in the egg business, and made it a business to sell only fresh laid eggs. Never could get enough to fill the demand, and the day is not here yet when strictly choice and fresh eggs will be a surfeit on the city markets. The 'city folks' do know what eggs are, and pay the price for the prime article, but prefer clean, sweet storage eggs to the average lot of fresh (?) country eggs the civilized Reubens work off on the dealers, and which same Reubens complain when the dealers' returns are rather small."

Right you are, Mr. Drevenstedt. The fresh egg demand is never fully reached by *fresh* eggs. Palming off stale (storage) eggs is not a step in the right direction. Even though they are "excellent," they are "not so good." Place a box of "strictly fresh eggs" alongside a box of "excellent storage eggs"—charge five cents a dozen more for the fresh eggs, and they will outsell the stale ones. Mr. Drevenstedt, with his knowledge of egg farming, knows that is so. Says Mr. Drevenstedt:

"The brutal fact is, the average farmer is careless, if not exactly dishonest, when it comes to selling eggs. Our experience in buying eggs in the '80s convinced us of that. 'Uncle Mike' Boyer has a mission to perform, and his excellent little monthly, which every farmer should read, is the proper medium for him to use. Make it a punishable offense for any farmer or dealer who sells rotten or stale eggs to a customer. The last time we were victimized was by a 'civilized Reuben', five eggs out of the dozen being 'armored cruisers'."

That's so, the average farmer is careless. He does not hesitate to drop the contents of a hidden nest in a basketful of fresh eggs. But how can that charge be laid to the market poulterer? He who devotes his time and attention to the cultivation of an egg crop? The man who, like Mr. Drevenstedt of old, makes it a business to sell only fresh-laid eggs? Fair competition stimulates business; fraudulent rivalry cripples it. To encourage cold-storage eggs to buck against guaranteed fresh eggs, is about on par with oleomargarine vs. prime butter. The people want *genuine* goods, and are willing to pay for them.

Mr. Drevenstedt voices our sentiments when he says "Make it a punishable offense for any farmer or dealer to sell rotten or stale eggs to a customer." That would take in everything but the fresh article, and that is what A FEW HENS is aiming at. Such a law would protect the honest egg farmer from the impositions practiced by the cold storage people and the "civilized Reubens", as Mr. Drevenstedt calls them. Again we repeat, we do not object to the sale of cold storage eggs when they are sold as such, but to label them "fresh" is trickery.

The *Nebraska State Poultry Journal* says: "A FEW HENS, a yearling bantam chick, which is published at Boston, Mass., with Michael K. Boyer as editor, is crowing over its first anniversary. A very good little paper, too."

Mrs. E. P. Pockman, New York, writes: "I find A FEW HENS a grand paper. Better than some three times its size."

James Eckels, Montana, writes: "I like A FEW HENS very much, as it tells us just what to do and how to do it, and if we follow its teachings we will have success."

Dr. F. P. Colby, Bow Mills, N. H., writes: "It seems good to hear from an old friend, though I am partially in contact by reading your truly condensed and valuable little paper. I get many points from it that do me good, and you have my best wishes for its prosperity. I believe that you have struck the foundation of profitable poultry producing, the part of the business that will do the people the most good."

A. S. Bucknam, Massachusetts, writes: "My new A FEW HENS came on Thursday, and I find you have grown. I will renew for three years. I think each issue is better than the last. I am going to make a book of the twelve 8-page papers."

Emory E. Banks, proprietor of the American Poultry Supply Agency, Crittenden, N. Y., writes: "Have received A FEW HENS for July 15, with which my subscription expires. I will renew for three years, but I wish to offer a complaint. That is, you give too much for the money—and four pages more is worse yet. I have bound Volume 1, which makes a valuable book for reference. I would not take \$10 for it if it could not be replaced."

The Bennett & Millet Co., manufacturers of Pioneer Clover Meal, Gouverneur, N. Y., write: "You have the best wishes of your distant friends, who appreciate your earnest efforts to raise the poultry industry to a paying basis, by educating the public how to make money with a few hens. Your little paper is a great business getter, and we are confident that the editor is accepted as an authority—a leader in poultry journalism—from the many enthusiastic remarks made by subscribers of A FEW HENS. Wish you the success you deserve."

Theodore Sternberg, secretary of the American Poultry Association, has received the appointment of Major in the Army. In the meantime the duties of secretaryship will be handled by Arthur E. Felch, Natick, Mass., to whom all orders for the new Standard should be addressed. Mr. Felch was appointed at the request of Mr. Sternberg, so that his army duties will not delay the distribution of the Standards. Certainly no better choice could have been made than Mr. Felch, and we congratulate both the Association and Arthur. Our best wishes go with Mr. Sternberg, in the belief that we will hear of heroic work done at the front.

If there is a man who trusts entirely in his first impressions, it is I. K. Felch. He is not an imitator; none can deny that he is original and aggressive. He

gave us the original score card; he gave us the open shed for poultry use; he invented the pedigree system in fowls; he launched the Decimal System upon us to see it acknowledged a practical means of applying the Standard in judging. Though 65 years old, he loses none of his activity, and is up to date. None will deny but he will be the President of the American Poultry Association in every sense of the word, for no act of his will be other than the result of his convictions. What he deems to be right he will certainly do, and his enemies know it. He has judged poultry in nearly every state in the Union, and during his life has not been protested but twice, and those not sustained. He acts with lightning rapidity. An instance of this is given when a party of the members of the A. P. A. were in doubt as to a decision, when it was agreed that they await the coming of Felch. One member said: "He will take sides in one minute after hearing the proposition read." Felch came, and the voice of the speaker had hardly subsided when he answered: "I am for the proposition." In judging he acts at once. What his convictions say he abides by. Some say he is politic. But we say he has no policy. He never thinks what is best for him, but what is best for poultry culture, for poultry culture is his religion. Probably no one was more able to study Felch than the writer. We were his daily companion for several years, and had a good chance to study the character of the "grand old man" in poultry culture. We have always found him reliable and honest. Even his enemies—and they are few now—are forced to say he acts from principles not caprice. Long live Uncle Isaac Felch!

* * *

The name of James Rankin will ever be closely linked with that of duck culture. Well has it been said that he is the duck king, for no one has done more to elevate duck culture as a profitable business than he. Twenty-three years ago Mr. Rankin purchased his present farm of 125 acres, intending to convert it into a truck and poultry farm. Its principal crop then was bushes, as it cut but six tons of English hay. It now cuts 150 tons of first quality hay, the change being due largely to the profits and fertilization derived from the poultry. He started in with about 500 fowl, growing at first 3,000 chicks and ducks yearly. He soon found that the profits derived from the poultry far exceeded that of any other farm crop, and gradually increased that business to an output of some 12,000 birds each season, costing over twenty carloads of grain. Of course the excrements vastly increased the fertility of the land, and he now has a model farm in every sense of the word. The principal product now is Pekin ducks, and by careful breeding Mr. Rankin has vastly increased the size, and nearly doubled the fecundity of the birds of twenty years ago, many of them newly imported. He is now perfectly satisfied that the conditions of our climate, the superiority and variety of our feed, the careful selection and breeding to which it has been subjected, has developed a far better bird than can

be found in its original habitat. It is no uncommon thing now for Mr. Rankin's young birds to tip the scales at 9 lbs. at 10 weeks old, while 6 and 7 lbs. was considered a good thing 20 years ago. Mr. Rankin is the author and publisher of a book entitled "Duck Culture," which he retails at 25 cents each, and those interested should send the amount to him at South Easton, Mass., and secure a copy.

* * *

Geo. H. Pollard, proprietor of Pollard's Poultry Farm, South Attleboro, Mass., is original. The general tone of his advertisements show a vein that is attractive, and as they are spiced with a sprinkling of wit, they make interesting reading, whether you want to buy or not. We always enjoy wide-awake advertisements. It gives us confidence in the man and his goods. Pollard's Pekin ducks are grand—they are utility and fancy combined. His White Wyandottes are strictly business. The fact that at Boston, in 1897, the greatest dressed poultry show ever held in the United States, he took first premium for the best pair of chickens, for the best and most yellow meated pair of chickens, for the best dressed pair of chickens, for the best and most yellow meated pair of broilers, etc. In line with his ducks and Wyandottes, his White Plymouth Rocks are strictly first-class. For breeding purposes, he has on hand some 1500 White Wyandottes and White Plymouth Rock chicks, mostly hatched from March 1 to May 1. They are unusually thrifty, and have been so from the egg. His duck trade took all the eggs he could spare from the 500 breeders, in fact, more than he ought to have spared. Still he has 2,000 lusty young ducklings which will go to make breeders for up-to-date poultrymen. It is Mr. Pollard's intention to winter about 350 Wyandottes and 150 White Plymouth Rocks. Mr. Pollard is starting a trade of stamped eggs, put up in fancy boxes and labelled: "Fresh eggs for table and family use. These eggs are from purebred White Wyandottes and White Plymouth Rocks, fed only the soundest grains and vegetables, with pure, cool water to drink. They are kept in clean houses and have fresh grass yards for runs. The eggs are gathered frequently, properly stamped and kept in a neat, cool place." For these guaranteed eggs he gets 5 cents a dozen extra. To give an idea of the extent of this farm, we can mention that about one and a half mile of poultry netting is used this season for yarding chicks and fowls. There are 12 grass yards in one block, 30x170 feet, for 60 chicks each. The farm comprises 60 acres of ideal soil and slopes, with an abundant water supply. In short, Pollard's Poultry Farm is a work box, and not a fancy show place.

* * *

Dr. F. E. Colby, Bow Mills, N. H., is a good example of what can be accomplished in the poultry business. The doctor began in a small way, working up an egg and table fowl trade in the city of Concord, a few miles away. The doctor has regular days for delivery and taking fresh orders, and it keeps him hustling to raise enough stock to

meet this local trade, and furnish the orders for breeding stock that come to him every season. The editor of A FEW HENS twice visited his place, and each time became more impressed with the stock and manner of doing business. What Dr. Colby has accomplished can be done by others, and we are glad to note the improvements he is constantly making. In a personal letter to the editor, the doctor writes:

"I have built three houses since you were here, and have added White Wyandottes, and am going to dispose of my Brown Leghorns. I made a shipment of 30 Barred Rocks to Sweden in May last. At present I have about 700 Barred Plymouth Rocks, and my chickens are promising fine, especially in pullets. I think they will show up better this fall than for several seasons past. I intend to displace the Brown Leghorns with White Wyandottes, as the latter, though not so good layers as the Leghorns, are in better demand as a general utility fowl. I have been setting more plum trees since you were here, and now have about 150, of which 60 are Japans, the rest mostly Burbank. Two years ago I picked 60 bushels from about a quarter acre, and received \$2 per bushel. All such little things help out. In Wyandottes I am going in for good size, yellow skin and legs (I don't want any white skin and white legs on Wyandottes) and as many standard requirements as can be got with plenty of vigor. I think the egg yield will be good if the birds have vigor and are fed for eggs."

* * *

Several miles outside the city of Fall River, Mass., R. G. Buffinton has a poultry farm devoted to the raising of business fowls. To a certain extent Mr. Buffinton is a fancier, but he draws the line on sacrificing utility points for fancy. What he aims to do, and does, is to bring the breeds up to the highest type in meat and egg characteristics. A few years ago the editor of A FEW HENS paid him a visit, and in the short time we spent on Maplewood Farm we saw more practical work than we saw on any other place we had visited. The buff colored breeds are more to Mr. Buffinton's liking, and he avers that they are better layers than any of the others in their class. The varieties he keeps are Buff Plymouth Rocks, Buff Wyandottes, Buff Leghorns, Buff Cochins, Rhode Island Reds and White Wonders. Last year he enjoyed quite a boom in Rhode Island Reds, so this year he is fully prepared to meet the increased demand that certainly will come for these excellent market fowls. In a private letter Mr. Buffinton says: "I have the finest lot of chickens this year I ever had, and most of them are quite well matured, some are laying." Mr. Buffinton is soon to spring a surprise in ducks having this year a very fine pair of buff ducks upon which to start; the next move will be buff geese.

"I have built a number of houses since you were here," continues Mr. Buffinton in his letter, "making thirty-seven in a row. I shall convert the 216 feet house into a brooder house, and a place for exhibition birds and surplus males."

The name of Nellie Hawks is known to every reader of the poultry press. Like that of Fanny Field, her name is associated with good practical, common-sense poultry lore. She has an entertaining way of expressing her ideas, and her articles read like a story, a romance. A few facts of the life of this interesting poultry woman might be entertaining. She is a farmer's wife. Who has not learned to respect the energetic help-mates of the western farmer? They are the poultry enthusiasts of the great western country. They have built up an interest in poultry matters that would never have existed had it remained for the men to do. The western woman is a model of thrift, energy and perseverance, and Nellie Hawks is a good model and example of that type. Her husband has a pretty 80-acre farm, and glories in his Jersey and Holstein cattle, fine swine and good horses. Mrs. Hawks has the poultry branch, and raises some of the finest White Plymouth Rocks that can be found in the country. She has been breeding them for ten years, and they are known far and wide as the Nellie Hawks Empire strain. This farm lies about a mile out of Friend, Nebraska, with Friend as the post office. Nellie Hawks is a member of the White Plymouth Rock Club, and one of the advisory board of said club. She is also one of the executive committee of the Blue Valley Poultry Association, of Nebraska. Besides the care of her poultry and her duties in the above associations, she is a regular contributor for many poultry publications, as well as a writer of stories, verse, household, farm, dairy and miscellaneous subjects. In home life, aside from her daily duties, she is a model, enjoying life in the country, in the companionship of her husband and the "hired girl"—there are no children to bless their home. The interests of her husband are her interests, and from early to late she is a willing and untiring worker. Would that we had more women like her.

All interested in the White Plymouth Rock should at once send their name and address to the secretary, Frank Heck, New Albany, Ind., and receive a copy. It is now in press and will shortly be ready for delivery. It will be the handsomest thing of the kind ever gotten out by a specialty club, and will contain a complete and accurate account of the origin of the breed and its growth in popularity. It will also contain complete information regarding the management of these fowls, especially from a market poultry standpoint.

In this issue we introduce the Brevity Symposium, and our readers will find in it the choicest collection of facts that could be contained in the same space. We believe that this feature of our paper will be worth considerable to poultry workers, and we ask that they give it their hearty support. What do you think of it anyway?

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.—Continued.

Poor drinking water has just as much ill effect on the health of the fowl as musty feed, says the *Ohio Poultry Journal*.

The moulting hen is not necessarily a sick hen, but owing to the process of feather-growing, it becomes a tough hen to eat.

Dr. J. H. Casey says sick fowls are poor stock in every way, and the sooner we get rid of them the better for the rest of the flock.

For rattling in the throat, *Southern Fancier* advises to mix one part spirits of turpentine with four parts sweet oil, and administer ten drops daily.

For indigestion, the *American Stock-Keeper* says give the birds plenty of sharp gravel, and also a teaspoonful of fenugreek, in the soft food, for every 10 hens.

The *Practical Poultryman* says there are certain soils that seem to be more conducive to scaly legs than others, and the clayey kind is the one to be avoided.

W. Theo. Wittman says a teaspoonful of strong brandy saturated with camphor will usually arrest diarrhoea. Or try from 3 to 6 drops of camphorated spirits of opium every few hours.

For swelled eyes, says the *American Stock-Keeper*, bathe the head with a warm solution made by dissolving a teaspoonful of powdered boracic acid in a pint of water, and then anoint with a few drops of glycerine. Repeat this daily.

Col. Robert A. Braden very truthfully says: Inbreeding is one of the snags that confronts the novice. Our advice to the beginner would be: Go slow. Be sure you understand it thoroughly, especially its dangers, before you pin your faith to it.

For roup, says the *American Stock-Keeper*, dissolve a teaspoonful of chloride of lime in a pint of water, and give the bird a teaspoonful of the solution. Burn tar and turpentine in the poultry house after the fowls have gone on the roost at night.

The air in the hen house is often contaminated by gasses arising from filth and the accumulated droppings, says Dr. J. H. Casey, and as the hens are exposed to these gases during the night, is it any wonder that the system is poisoned by them and disease results?

Filthy water drunk daily is certainly very irritating to the tender bowels, says *Poultry Culture*, and as water is the principal constituent of the flesh, bones, feathers, etc., of fowls, they consume large quantities of it daily, and if it is not clean and pure how can we expect anything but disease from its use?

There are a great many persons offering sure roup remedies, says the *Inter-State Poultryman*. If they took as much interest in properly avoiding the causes which produce the disease, as they do in experimenting with remedies to cure it, they would save themselves much worry and would have a healthier flock of fowls at all times.

I have learned, in several years experience and experimenting, that the only proper way to raise chickens, either large or small, the droppings are to be watched, examined, carefully noted. This is the best test of the health of the chickens. When I see

the droppings are of a good brownish color, capped with white, I know my chickens are doing well.—*J. I. Peterson*.

A correspondent in *Poultry Topics* gives this cholera cure: Scald the houses, coops, etc., with strong alum water. Give sulphur in food once a week, and keep pine tar in fresh drinking water. Then give a teaspoonful of epsom salts dissolved in strong red pepper tea. Follow this dose in twelve hours with two pine tar pills, size of a large pea. The invalid should have no water to drink for two or three days after above treatment.

Thomas A. Duff says: In most of the fatal diseases there is a poisonous fungus growth in the blood. Fowls never perspire, by which means many evils might be thrown off. On the contrary any evils that they must have must be thrown off by respiration, and the result is that the great majority of poultry diseases are found in the head, throat and lungs, and, therefore, it is in these parts that we must look for the symptoms of disease.

As soon as I hear a bird making the peculiar noise common in canker, I find the throat covered with a whitish substance, and the breath is at times foetid. I first remove the hard substance, and then with a soft rag swab out the throat with salt water. Then I pour down its throat one teaspoonful of Pond's Extract. In twenty minutes I take some meal, pour on it boiling water, and as soon as it is cold enough I feed the bird, putting the food in its mouth, far down the throat, to compel it to swallow. Repeat two or three mornings.—*M. K. Law*.

WHITE WYANDOTTES for sale. My stock of purebred business birds were rejected from breeding pens mainly because a trifle under standard weight. Price 75 cts. each. No order accepted for less than \$2.25. SILAS DEAN, Oak Hill, N. Y.

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Fine Stock. Wm. F. Stroud, Merchantville, N. J.

WATCH DOG or Pup wanted in exchange for handsome Wh. Wyandotte cockerel. Smith-Mack strain. Address Box 205, West Brookfield, Mass.

WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS

Exclusively. Stock and Eggs for sale at reasonable prices. HANCOCK & CHILD, Salem, N. J.

EGGS FOR HATCHING. Our strain of Buff Leghorns have won prizes in England and America's greatest shows. Prolific layers. \$2.00 per 13. C. W. FRANKLIN, Norwich, N. Y.

NIAGARA FARM

Offers Fine Stock Cheap.

1898 breeders must go to make room, only \$1 each. Mammoth Pekin Ducks, White Wyandottes, White Leghorns, (S. C.), Light Brahmas. Eggs, 5 cts. each. Also White Indian Games, White Holland Turkeys, White Embden Geese. Young or old, \$2 each. Eggs 20 cts. each. Pekin Ducklings, six weeks old, 50 cts. each. Can be shipped safely. (Circular.) Pea Fowls, Guinea Fowls.

W. R. CURTISS & CO., Ransomville, N. Y.

EGGS. S. C. White and S. C. Brown Leghorn. First quality stock. \$1.00 per 13. A Wooden hen, \$4. W. Hahman, Box 3, Altoona, Pa.

All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail,	-	-	25 Cents.
A Living From Poultry,	"	-	25 "
Broilers for Profit,	"	-	50 "
Farm-Poultry Doctor,	"	-	50 "
A Few Hens, monthly, one year,	-	-	25 "
Total,			\$1.75.

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

MICHAEL K. BOYER,
Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.,) New Jersey.

Our Brevity Symposium.

Opinions From Those Who are Making a Success in Poultry Culture.

What is the cause of green duck eggs? Is it a sign of impurity?

Foreign Blood.—W. R. Curtiss & Co., Ransomville, N. Y.: "Foreign blood of some kind, probably Aylesbury. Yes, it is a sign of impurity."

Freak of Nature.—W. H. Fordham, Speonk, L. I.: "That is hard to tell. I think it is a freak of nature. Don't think it is a sign of impurity."

Feed Influences the Color.—J. Mac Flickinger, Fannettsburg, Pa.: "Green eggs laid by Pekin ducks is not a sign of impure breeding; the feed influences the color of the shell."

Sort of a Sport.—James Rankin, South Easton, Mass.: "Occasionally our best ducks will lay a green egg. It is sort of a sport. Usually it may be attributed to a tinge of Rouen blood in the stock."

Only Occasionally Green.—D. A. Mount, Jamesburg, N. J.: "I seldom ever see a green duck egg from my Pekin ducks. Have come to the conclusion that a duck will sometimes lay a green egg, then white ones. Have had such a case."

Evidence of Careless Breeding.—Geo. H. Pollard, South Attleboro, Mass.: "Not necessarily. Pekin ducks used to lay many green eggs, but through using only the white ones for hatching, the colored eggs have become scarcer, and we conclude that a flock which produces many such is evidence of careless breeding."

A Freak With All Varieties.—A. J. Hallock, Speonk, L. I.: "I don't know the cause. I don't believe it is a sign of impurity. It is claimed by some that it shows Aylesbury blood, but I don't think that is correct, because a small proportion only of Aylesbury eggs are blue (or green), consequently Aylesbury blood would not change color of the egg. Indian Runners also lay an occasional blue egg. I have known of Pekins hatched from blue eggs to lay white eggs. As other thoroughbred ducks lay blue eggs, I do not believe it is unnatural or shows impurity for Pekins to do the same."

* * *

What do you consider should be the prominent parts of a standard for roasting fowls?

Wm. C. Casey, Katonah, N. Y.: "I should consider that weight, fibre and color of flesh should be the prominent parts of a standard."

E. T. Perkins, Saco, Maine: "Not over-fat carcass; 3 1-2 to 4 1-2 lbs., dressed weight; medium short legs; compact, plump body; yellow skin and legs; white plumage."

H. S. Babcock, Providence, R. I.: "Plumpness of breast and thighs; moderately thin skin of yellow tinge; tenderness of the flesh; medium weight, say about six pounds."

G. A. McFetridge, Bound Brook, N. J.: "My idea for a standard roaster is depth and breadth of breast, short legs, short back; in fact, they should be chunky and compact, with abundance of muscle, the heavier the better. They should be rapid growers."

Geo. O. Brown, Baltimore, Md.: "The standard for roasters should be, I think, something like this: Head—short and broad. Neck—short. Breast—broad and deep, well rounded and full down to the bottom. Back—short, broad, and prominently flat at shoulders. Legs—short, with well developed thighs, clean and free from feathers; bright yellow. Skin—yellowish white, a shade or two lighter always than color of legs."

W. H. Rudd, South Natick, Mass.: "The requirements of a good roaster are rapid growth and quick maturity; compact, plump shape, with abundant breast meat, and sides which afford good slices; not too leggy, but with heavy thighs which will furnish good 'second joints', regarded by many as the best part of the chicken. The Plymouth Rock, for roasters of various sizes, suits us as well as any. Wyandottes also are good, and so are a compact strain of Brahmas, for large roasters, but for small ones they are apt to be too leggy for the best class of trade."

R. W. Davison, Glendola, N. J.: "A standard for roasting fowls should comply with the market demands. The color of the skin is not a factor, excepting in exceptional cases. The market demands a full breasted, plump carcass bird. The white meat is what is demanded. Therefore I should say that the bird which is well fattened, and that carries the most white meat and the least offal, is the ideal roaster. In other words the ideal roaster must be a good sized bird; must have a very full breast; must taper off from front to rear, wedge shape, thus leaving little room for offal, and must be fat. When the bird's hind parts are large a quarter of the whole weight will be removed in cleaning. The bone of the fowl should also be as small as possible."

Edwin Snelgrove, 130 Fulton St., N. Y. Prize Winning Blue Andalusians and Light Brahmas.

WILL GIVE a nice trio White P. Rocks or three Simplicity Brooders for fine Collie pup. A. E. HUTCHINSON, Gilead, Conn.

Brahmas and Wyandottes.

Can supply fine cockerels in Light Brahmas and White Wyandottes, at \$2 to \$3 each. Half grown S. C. White Leghorn cockerels, at \$1 each. MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammononton, N. J.

Raise Quails.

and make one to two thousand dollars a year. Introduce cleared four thousand dollars a year with only one man to help him occasionally. Send 25 cts. and read the history of the introducer. It's only a small book, but it will tell you all about quails and how to raise them for profit. Address, C. GROSS, Bebra, (Morgan County), Mo.

"Best Liver Pill Made." Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.

Poultry Supplies

Of all kinds. Waste Bread, Cut Clover, Pure Beef Scraps, Fancy Ground Oyster Shells. All kinds of Grit, and Agents for Smith & Romaine's B. B. B. Estimates given on special lots of feed.

FRED. G. ORR & CO.,

Nos. 5 and 6 Commercial Wharf, Boston, Mass.

John H. Robinson, Waltham, Mass.: "For a small roaster—weight 5 to 7 lbs.; body, chunky, compact, giving the impression of substantial trimness; back, rather short, broad, flat at shoulders, slight concave rising to the tail, smoothly rounded across the hips; breast, very prominent, well rounded; thighs, short, plump, smooth, fine, strong in bone; color of skin, yellow; color of plumage, shape of head and size of comb, indifferent. For a large roaster—weight 9 lbs. or more; body, large, massive, no tendency to bagginess in rear; back, straight, rather long, broad, flat across shoulders, slightly rounded across hips, hips not protruding; breast, full, well rounded in profile, flat across; thighs, of medium length, meaty; shanks, smooth or feathered, medium long, strong without coarseness; color of skin, yellow; color of plumage, shape of head, shape and size of comb, indifferent."

WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Eggs and Fowls in Season. WM. H. CHILD, Glenside, Pa.

AN UNPARALLELED RECORD. At America's greatest show, New York, '98, also at Boston, this season. At the latter show, on two entries of Turkeys, won two 1sts, and \$10 special for best pr. At New York, on four entries, won four 1sts. Eggs for hatching from this stock, 40c. each. Best strains of Pekin, Aylesbury and Muscovy Ducks, Toulouse and African Geese, Ind. Games, L. Brahmas, B. and W. P. Rocks, Wh. and S. L. Wyand., Wh., Brown and Buff Leghorns, Black Minorcas, White and Pearl Guineas. Write for 32-page catalogue, free. Choice Stock for sale. "Agent for Lee's Lice Killer."

D. A. MOUNT,

PINE TREE FARM, JAMESBURG, N. J.

I. K. FELCH & SON.

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined. Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

CUT CLOVER HAY

\$2.00 per 100 pounds. 50 pounds, \$1.10. Best on the market. Send for circular. WOODHID FARM, Fox Chase, Philadelphia, Pa.

INCUBATORS.

Gold and Silver Medals.

Blue and Red Ribbons.

Diplomas and Sweepstakes.

Our 1898 catalogue tells you all about the world's greatest Incubators and Brooders. Send for one. All machines warranted.

PRAIRIE STATE INCUBATOR CO.

HOMER CITY, PA.

I. K. Felch, Natick, Mass.: Judging dressed poultry by the Decimal Score Card:

Neatness in dressing and exhibition,	10
Breast, muscle, full and tapering downward	10
Keel, muscle, being round at sides	10
Long and heavy muscled from hip to second joint.....	10
Shell bone well covered.....	10
Thigh, large at second joint, tapering abruptly.....	10
Evenly fattened in lines of fat..	10
Color of skin, straw yellow, void of any greasy appearance.....	10
Absence of bunch fat on saddle, and pouchy appearance.....	10
Perfect in normal structure, being free from deformity.....	10
Total.....	100

P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, N. J.: "Table quality is the desideratum. Abundance of muscle and fineness of bone should be the main objects. The finer the bone the less offal. Small bone, however, does not indicate lack of hardiness. The bones of a thoroughbred running horse are as hard as ivory, while those of the cart horse are coarse and soft. I submit the following standard with reasons or remarks appended:

Breast.....	40
Body.....	20
Back.....	20
Legs.....	10
Wings.....	5
Neck.....	5
Total.....	100

Breast full when crop is empty; muscles extending out from the keel appearing as an indentation. Body, long, deep and thick, well covered with flesh; skin rather thin than thick. Back, broad and long, showing fat along both sides of the spine. Thighs, heavily covered with muscle, the bone of the shanks very small. Wings, large, the muscles strong and prominent; feathers not considered. Neck, small near head and thick at shoulders. I do not mention head, comb, wattles, feathers, toes, etc., because they are the parts discarded. Weight cannot be designated. Condition is always understood and need not be mentioned."

* * *

What branch of poultry culture, or what combination, would you advise for the most profit?

Ducks and Broilers.—Wm. H. Jones, Lincoln University, Pa.: "Ducks and broilers."

Eggs and Roasters.—E. T. Perkins, Saco, Maine: "The combination of fresh eggs and roasters. That is, killing off nearly all the fowls each year, and using cockerels that come from hatching the pullets for summer broilers, give us excellent results."

Ducklings, Eggs, Broilers.—Wm. C. Casey, Katonah, N. Y.: "We feel that there is more profit in placing ducklings on an early market than any other branch of poultry culture. Though we aim to combine the production of fresh eggs during the months of November, December and January, and broilers for March and April, as we obtain the highest prices for each during these months."

Eggs and Chickens.—H. S. Babcock, Providence, R. I.: "The answer to this question depends upon many circumstances. For the average farmer I believe the production of eggs will pay the best, but for one who has the proper market and makes poultry raising a business, the production of chickens (broilers and roasters) with eggs will probably be more profitable than the production of eggs alone."

Roasters, Eggs, Fancy, Dairy, Fruit.—F. E. Colby, Bow Mills, N. H.: "1st. Roasting chickens. 2d. Eggs. 3d. Fancy stock, to fill standard requirements, combined with dairy and fruit raising. This combination is as good as any, and one helps the other. The skim milk from the dairy is an excellent egg producer and chicken grower. The hen droppings make the best fertilizer for grass, strawberries or plum trees, if rightly cared for. I find my chicks grow faster and hens lay better when they have plenty of skim milk, which contains albumen and is free of fat."

Eggs and Poultry.—G. O. Brown, Baltimore, Md.: "Depends on the location, the nearness to market and a number of other things. Nearby customers are best, unless the supply is too great, for sales may be made direct to consumer. Both eggs and poultry—broilers, roasters and old fowls—for disposal at all times, is my idea. Would keep no males with hens after middle of June, and would save all the infertile eggs they would then lay, and pack away, big end down, in salt or oats, and sell in fall when good prices prevail. Would pin my faith to Plymouth Rocks; might be tempted to try a cross with Houdans, which would no doubt increase size of eggs and add materially to carcass plumpness."

Fancy and Market.—I. K. Felch, Natick, Mass.: "The day has passed for men who have looked for a market for all they raise as thoroughbreds. Exhibition excellence demands such merit that not 5 per cent of all the flock find a market for it; not over 40 per cent of the remainder can be sold as strictly first-class breeding stock. Fifty per cent of all flocks must find a market for kitchen use. The fancier is forced to become, to this extent, a poulturer, and as exhibition stock bring such an overwhelming price, the breeder or fancier can use as breeders only the very best thoroughbred stock."

Poultry and Fruit.—R. W. Davison, Glendola, N. J.: "Market poultry and fruit. Fruit trees of all kinds do well in the poultry yard, and require no fertilizing nor tending. Also, small fruit like blackberries do exceedingly well in the poultry yard, but the fowls will have to be kept out after the berries get partly grown. The fences will support grape vines and the grapes will do well. I pin my faith to market poultry, using thoroughbreds for breeders, for they give better results than scrubs. Again, if we use thoroughbreds we can do a little fancy trade as well. This part should be run as a side issue, however. It will bring in a few extra dollars."

Market Eggs and Poultry.—W. H. Rudd, South Natick, Mass.: "In the first place, I would give a wide berth to rearing fancy poultry for the sake of choice live specimens and eggs for hatching, and would confine my attention entirely to the production of market eggs and market poultry, which, if properly conducted in the light of modern ideas on the subject, will furnish something to sell at all seasons of the year, sometimes yielding big profits and sometimes only moderate ones, but averaging remunerative prices. The particular combination would, of course, depend upon the situation or surroundings, and circumstances of the individual as well as the requirements of the market which was to be the outlet for his productions. On this point our minds are made up very firmly, and our ideas in regard to it are as clear as a whistle."

Eggs and Poultry.—John H. Robinson, Waltham, Mass.: "The most profitable branch of poultry culture is the breeding of exhibition fowls of the

FARM-POULTRY.

The Up-to-Date Poultry Paper.

This paper is edited with great care. The publishers spare no expense to make it the leader among advanced poultry papers. It contains the experiences and observations of the life work of many breeders. There is no investment a poultry breeder can make, which will afford as much value for the money as a yearly subscription to Farm-Poultry.

Published twice a month. Price, one year one dollar. Sample copy free. We have arranged to club it with Mr. Boyer's new paper, *A Few Hens* (price 25 cents) both one year for only \$1.10. Send orders either to MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J., or the publishers below. T. S. JOHNSON & COMPANY, Boston, Mass.



HEAVY LAYING BRAHMAS,

(HARTNEST STRAIN.)

Bred for generations from prolific laying hens, (with known individual high egg records), mated to sons of heavy layers. Certificate of Pedigree furnished each purchaser, showing number of eggs laid by dam, weight of dam, weight of dam's egg, score, and other information of value.

Buy Now and Save Money.

"The Early Bird Catches the Worm." Satisfaction Guaranteed.
HART NEST YARDS, - - - - - Framingham, Mass.

HATCH EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR.
Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs, at less cost, than any other Hatcher.
Lowest Priced First-class Hatcher made.
GEO. H. STAHL, Patentee and Sole Manufacturers, 114 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.

HATCH WOODEN HEN.
Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing for poultry raising on a small scale, 28 egg capacity. Catalogue free.

highest grade, work requiring special taste and ability, and, usually years of experience. Even this branch cannot often be worked independently on a large scale; for the different branches of the business combine so naturally that it is all but impossible to operate one to the exclusion of the others. For the ordinary poultry keeper—and I presume it is for him the question is asked—the best plan is a combination in which the principal features are egg farming, and the breeding of stock which approaches the Standard as closely as is consistent with the preservation of its value as economic poultry. Except in certain favored localities, market poultry should not be a special feature. Yet, there should be no slackness in handling the considerable portion of the product which sooner or later must go to the pot. The most profitable combination may or may not include the sale of eggs for hatching. When a breeder's trade will take all the saleable fowls he can raise, he will as a rule make more in the long run by letting the egg trade alone. If the demand for his grown stock is less than the capacity of his plant, his profits will probably be increased by the sale of eggs for hatching."

Combinations of all Branches.—Nellie Hawks, Friend, Neb.: "Upon the average farm I would advocate the combination of branches of poultry culture, for the greatest amount of profit. We have well known and very successful poultry fanciers who are farmers, to be sure. But, there are a comparatively very few of our fanciers, strictly speaking, to be found on farms. Many farm wives raise thoroughbred fowls, and many farm men also (though it is usually the wife that does the rearing of the chicks and caring for the sitting hens—nevertheless she remains the 'silent partner'). But in the majority of cases, such breeders of fine poultry devote but little of their time and energies to the fancy part of the business, taking into consideration the market part of it only. In many cases the combination works remarkably well. If one is situated sufficiently near an express and post office, that business may be successfully carried on, the shipping of eggs and breeding stock may be attended to, and there may be a market side to the question at one and the same time. And it is more often the case that this combination of branches may be made profitable than otherwise. Hundreds of farmwives who today are not attending to purebred poultry, might be finding both pleasure and profit did they take up this most popular and remunerative branch of the legitimate industries of the farm."

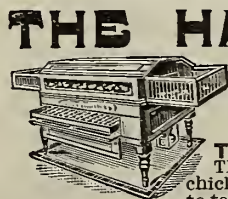
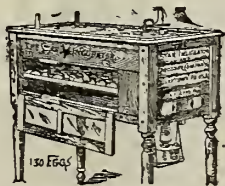
Eggs and Breeding Stock.—F. B. Zimmer, Gloversville, N.Y.: "We believe a business that would pay the best for anyone who is within reach of any of our cities, would be one of this sort: To keep only thoroughbred stock, so you can catch the many dollars sure to come to you from those who would hear of your success, and would want some of your stock, and cater to the

egg trade of private families in the city. Supply this trade once, twice, or oftener each week, with as many dozen as agreed upon, of strictly fresh eggs. I am speaking of this as conducted by a man who makes this a business and attends to it; one who makes no mistakes, but can swear, if need be, when every egg was laid. One who always markets clean eggs and delivers them on time so customers can trust him. Such a man can work up more trade than he can handle, at several extra cents per dozen. Raise enough chicks each year to replace all two year old hens. Dress surplus cockerels in lots to suit your egg customers, who will be glad to buy of you instead of the market. Sell the two year old hens just before they moult, to the markets, who are always glad to buy at that time of the year, and so keep moving year after year. You will see my idea is a mixed business, but eggs is the principal part of it. The other part is simply working off the surplus at the proper time, and to keep the laying stock at their best by wintering half pullets raised on the place, and half yearling hens. With a place sufficient to care for and handle 1,000 hens, and of course buildings that are suitable, a man can clear more than most of the farms do, even if they are good ones."

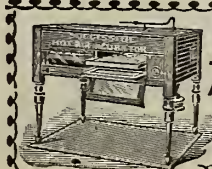
Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

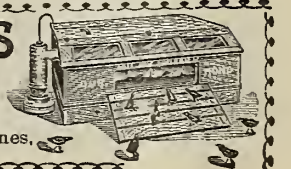
Keep on improving.
Do your work well.
Energy brings success.
Grit and pluck are twins.
Failure comes to the faint hearted.
Remember, circumstances alter cases.
The wise man never parades his learning.
Air castles like eggs are easily crushed.
Visionary men never succeed with poultry.
Volunteered advice is not always the best.
Close application is the way to notice details.



THE HATCHING HEN
HAS LOST HER OCCUPATION
and in the production and brooding of chicks she has been supplanted by the better and every way
RELIABLE INCUBATORS AND BROODERS
They Hatch and Brood when you are ready. They don't get lousy. They grow the strongest chicks and the most of them. It takes a 224 page book to tell about these machines and our Mammoth Reliable Poultry Farms. Sent by mail on receipt of 10 cents. Send for it now
Reliable Incubator and Brooder Co., Quincy, Illinois.



POSITIVE MONEY MAKERS
THE NEW STYLE SUCCESSFUL INCUBATOR AND BROODER. Our NEW CATALOGUE and BOOK on POULTRY tells all about them and many OTHER THINGS the poultry man should know; worth a dollar but we send it for 6c. in stamps.
Address the **Des Moines Incubator Co.** Box 423 Des Moines, Iowa.



The successful poultryman is a skillful manager.

Combinations in the poultry business prevent disaster.

Why is it that the new breeds are always the "best utility fowls?"

Mr. Felch's method of judging dressed poultry by the score card is novel, to say the least.

There is no positive way of telling the age of the hen without a special record or mark.

Three of the best judges in the country are utility men at heart—Felch, Brown and Drevensedt.



Sheridan's Condition Powder

once daily. If your hens are shedding their feathers and not laying, they are out of condition. All the poultry authorities say, "when hens are in condition they will lay perfect eggs and plenty of them." Then help them over molting time, or your egg profit this winter will be much lessened.

Sheridan's Powder

is worth its weight in gold for molting hens. In quantity costs one-tenth cent a day per hen.

JOHN R. JONES, of Suffield, Conn., says:—I find Sheridan's Condition Powder fed once daily in the food, very valuable for molting hens. It assists in growing new feathers, makes the combs bright red, and gives a rich, natural plumage.

Sold by druggists, grocers and feed dealers. If you can't get the Powder send to us. One pack, 25 cts; five, \$1. Large two-lb. can, \$1.20. Six cans, exp. paid, \$5. Sample copy best Poultry paper free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.

FREE! We will send post-paid, to any address, Mr. M. K. Boyer's book on Poultry Diseases and Treatment. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.

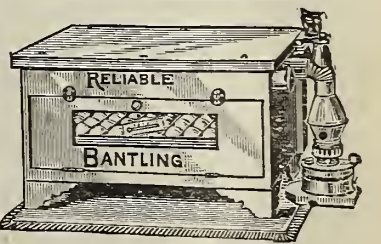
THE STAR INCUBATOR.

(Invention of G. A. McFETRIDGE.)

Perfect in Regulation, Ventilation and Radiation.

Catalogue Free.

STAR INCUBATOR and BROODER CO., Bound Brook, N. J.



We know of a "Standard-bred" editor who navigated a poultry plant into the bottomless pit of failure.

Poultry Culture says feathers and combs are largely matters of taste, but egg laying is a matter of business.

Poultry raising as an industry in the south has within the past few years made considerable advancement.

Prof. W. P. Wheeler believes early moulting is largely an individual characteristic, and can be secured by selection in breeding.

Subscribe early for your state poultry journal. Give it encouragement. At the same time invest an extra quarter for A FEW HENS for good measure.

Robert A. Braden says: Do not fall into the common error of thinking the poultry business can be mastered in a day. Hundreds of men have spent decades and still have room to learn.

Let us first have utility—eggs and meat, says *Western Poultry Farm*. If utility and beauty can be combined, well and good; but let utility be first, beauty second. Beauty apart from utility comes high. Few of us can afford it.

The *American Fancier* says the road to success in poultry keeping, which reaches the goal of profit, is not all smooth and level. Where the road is most difficult, the owner must drive, for personal observation is necessary to avoid rocks that wreck.

Let us not make the mistake of thinking that pure bred poultry and "Standard bred" stock are one and all the same, says *Ohio Poultry Journal*. "A Standard bred" fowl is a pure bred fowl, but a disqualified thoroughbred is not a Standard bred.

The farmer in the south who does not have a well-paying flock of poultry is sadly wasting favorable opportunities, and neglecting the "floodtide" that might help lift the farm mortgage and help build up and improve the farm home, says G. O. Brown, in the *Baltimore Sun*.

James Denison, in *Ohio Poultry Journal*, says: "Perhaps I am a little radical on this crossing business, but really I do not think it necessary to go beyond pure bred varieties for any kind of a utility fowl you may want for either laying purposes, broilers or roasters."

E. O. Roessle says first-class poultrymen out of employment are as scarce as hens' teeth. Again, a first-class poultryman hired by a man who knows nothing about raising poultry, soon becomes a second class man at everything. There may be exceptions to this rule, but they are scarce.

Pure bred fowls are better than any cross, says *Texas Farm and Ranch*, provided sufficient care is taken in breeding to prevent deterioration, and in feeding and housing to prevent disease from exposure which hardy barn-yard rustlers have been inured to for many generations. But in keeping pure breeds there is danger of weakening the constitutions of the birds by inbreeding, unless measures are taken to prevent it.

A few fruit trees in a hen yard often do better than elsewhere, and afford shade for the fowls. But the small fruits must be either planted beyond their range or be protected. It is much

easier, however, to fence them out than to fence them in, and where the fowls are allowed to run at large, a wire or picket fence three or four feet high around the berry patch, will be a safe protection. If small trees are planted in small enclosures for fowls, they should be protected until out of reach.—*W. F. Bassett*.

People We Know.

Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.

The *Southern Fancier* is no more.

H. A. Kuhns, Atlanta, Ga., contemplates starting a poultry paper in the fall.

Ralph H. Mathew has been appointed associate editor of the *Ohio Poultry Journal*, and the "Great and Only" will be more interesting than ever.

For FAMILY Use;

Dr. A. Johnson, in 1810, Originated

JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT

To Cure Every Form of Inflammation; INTERNAL as much as EXTERNAL.

Could a remedy have existed for nearly a century, except for the fact that it possesses extraordinary merit for many family ills?

Every Mother should have it in the house. It acts promptly. It is always ready for use. Dropped on sugar suffering children love it. It will positively cure all ailments that are attended with inflammation; such as asthma, abscesses, bites, burns, bruises, bronchitis, colds, coughs, croup, catarrh, chaps, chilblains, colic, cholera-morbus, all forms of sore throat, earache, headache, la grippe, lame back, mumps, muscular soreness, neuralgia. All who use it are amazed at its wonderful power and are loud in its praise ever after.

We have used your Anodyne Liniment in our family for years, and it is almost the only medicine we do use, and we use this for almost everything. I have used it as an external application with astonishing results. **HIRAM ODLIN, Bangor, Me.**

Send for our New Book Treatment for Diseases.

The Doctor's Signature and Directions on every bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Price, 35 cents. Six bottles, \$2.00. **I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.**

The Oxford Poultry Farm, Lincoln University, Chester Co., Pa., Wm. H. Jones, manager, is making a specialty of celery-fed ducks and broilers.

The commission house of Philip Quigley, 303 South Front street, Philadelphia, Pa., is a reliable concern, and our readers living in this section will do well to patronize it.

For good sound information where to buy and how to buy poultry supplies, we advise our readers to send a stamp to Richard H. Young, Westboro, Mass., for a copy of his annual *Chicken Fixings*. It is filled with jokes, good reading and practical information.

The July 13th issue of the *American Fancier* is devoted exclusively to the Houdan fowl. The paper could not devote its space to a more worthy cause, and we advise all our readers interested in this practical utility breed, to send five cents to J. H. Drevenstedt, Johnstown, N. Y., and receive a copy.

The Star Incubator Company, Bound Brook, N. J., report that the foundation is laid for another building 40x100 feet, two stories high, for better handling their business. Their present factory is replete with good working machinery, as well as machinery for making the bars and working the galvanized iron, besides plumbing and piping outfits.

Through the courtesy of Robert Grass, Englewood, N. J., A FEW HENS received three samples of galvanized feed troughs, for chicks, manufactured by H. Haupt, 453 West 53d street, New York city. There is no soldering about them to cause leaking, and they are about as complete as one would wish. Those of our readers interested in feed troughs should write Mr. Haupt for prices.

Orr's Clear Grit.

Standard for quality 100 lbs. 75 cents; 500 lbs. \$3.00. **D. LINCOLN ORR, Box 9, Orr's Mills, N. Y.**

THE EGG SECRET

is in the feeding. Our poultry literature, which we send free, to all poultry keepers, tells the secret of profitable feeding.

ADDRESS

FITCH FERTILIZER WORKS, Bay City, Mich.

THIS PAPER will cost you only **Twenty-five Cents for TWELVE MONTHS.** Can you afford to do without it? We accept postage stamps in payment for it. Order at once, so as to get every issue.

SPECIAL VALUE.

Complete Volumes of Farm-Poultry. Graded Series.

Sent Express prepaid by us; or 25c. less may be sent in each case, if you pay the express when you receive the package. In either case you get great value.

Volumes 1, 2 and 3. Bound, One Book, \$1.75

For beginners and those wishing information for starting in Poultry Raising.

Volumes 4 and 5. Unbound, One Package, \$1.25

A step in advance after Volumes 1, 2 and 3 have been read and digested.

Volumes 6 and 7. Unbound, One Package, \$2.00

For more advanced students of Poultry Culture for profit, and worth many times the cost to any one.

Each lot sent alone. As Vol. 1, 2 and 3 for \$1.75; Vol. 4 and 5 for \$1.25; Vol. 6 and 7 for \$2.—Express prepaid by us; or you paying express, sent for \$1.50, \$1.00, \$1.75 respectively.

OR ALL to one address if ordered at one time, we pay express, **FOR \$4.00.**

Address, **I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House Street, BOSTON, MASS.**